

# SPEED MESSAGE

TO

FROM

MR. LARRY A. DREW, MANAGER  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
HECLA MINING COMPANY  
6500 MINERAL DRIVE, BOX C-8000  
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO 83814-1931

UTAH DIVISION OIL, GAS & MINING  
355 W. NORTH TEMPLE, SUITE 350  
SLC, UTAH 84180-1203

SUBJECT NOTICE OF DAM INSPECTION, UTAH DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS.

M/021/004, ESCALANTE SILVER  
MINE

DATE MAY 3, 1991

I RECENTLY RECEIVED A COPY OF THE ENCLOSED  
LETTER FROM THE STATE DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS.  
I NOTED THAT THE MAILING ADDRESS MAY BE OUT  
OF DATE. CONSEQUENTLY, I DECIDED TO SEND  
YOU A PERSONAL COPY IN CASE THE ADDRESSED  
LETTER TO MR. HAHNE FAILED TO REACH YOU.  
I WILL FORWARD A COPY OF THIS COVER MEMO TO  
WATER RIGHTS (DAM SAFETY SECTION - MR. RICHARD HALL).

SIGNED

D. Wayne Hedberg

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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Norman H. Bangerter

Governor

Dee C. Hansen

Executive Director

Robert L. Morgan

State Engineer

1636 West North Temple, Suite 220

Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-3156

801-538-7240

April 26, 1991

41/021/004

Hecla Mining-Escalante  
Edward Hahne  
P.O. Box 308  
Enterprise, UT 84725

Re: Ranchers Exploration Tailings Dam

Gentlemen:

On April 23, 1991, an informal inspection of the above-referenced dam was undertaken by Richard Hall and Dave Marble of our Dam Safety Section. They were accompanied to the dam by Mr. John D. Siddle and two other gentlemen from your organization who were at the site for other reasons.

We realize that your operation has been terminated and you are currently in the process of reclamation. Our observations indicate the remaining freeboard on the dam is only two feet which was approved by this office, as a temporary measure, on September 28, 1987.

Since the dam is full of tailings, we would like to make its status "inactive"; however, we need assurances that it can pass an acceptable flood without endangering the embankment. We are requesting a hydrological study on this issue.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard Hall of our Dam Safety Section.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Morgan, P.E.  
State Engineer

RIM:rbh:cp

cc: Gerald Stoker, Cedar Area Engineer  
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

RECEIVED

MAY 01 1991

DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING